

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

International Harvester Company
Showroom, Office and Warehouse
10 South Main Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-B

HABS
IOWA
31 DUQU,
13-B-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 10 South Main Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1A.4/5
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 SW1/4 S30 T89N R3E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.692140.4706825
Lot dimensions : 216'x 93': .46 acre
Lot description: West 1/2 of Lots 8-11
of Block 10 of Dubuque
Harbor Company Addition

Present Owner: Miller
Present Usage: light industry; warehouse
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 172'x 93'

Orientation : west

Architectural

Description :

Plan type : 1- 2-story trapezoidal brick block with truncated corner; 1-story rectangular steel warehouse attached on south end.

Foundation: reinforced concrete perimeter walls and floor slab.

Structure : steel frame with brick masonry bearing walls (front); steel trusses with steel frame walls (warehouse).

Ext. walls: face brick laid in running bond (front); pre-cast, corrugated plaster/asbestos slabs bolted to steel frame (warehouse).

Roofs : flat composition roof with brick parapet walls (front); moderately pitched gable with asbestos tile shingles (warehouse); corrugated steel shed roof over loading platform on north side.

Chimneys : 1 simple brick interior chimney in rear of single-story brick section.

Openings : painted wood 3/1 double-hung windows on all sides of 2nd floor of front block, with loose lintels and continuous concrete sill; fixed-sash showcase windows (most currently covered with wood paneling) on 1st floor front and north side, each with corbeled brick surrounds with concrete corner blocks and sills; double-leaf main entrance (door replaced with anodized

aluminum) in truncated corner of front block, with simplified classical revival concrete cornice and engaged columns and 1-light transom; single-leaf entrance (door also replaced with anodized aluminum) toward south end of west front, with fixed-sash sidelights and transom; simply framed entrance doors on north loading platform; steel sectional garage doors on warehouse.

Details : concrete coping blocks on parapets, with single soldier course of bricks below; simple pediment in parapet on truncated corner; concrete (or stone) round IHC emblem inset in brick wall on truncated corner.

Construction Date : c.1925

Architecture Style: Twentieth Century Functional

Physical History : An outgrowth of Cyrus McCormick's farm machinery business, the International Harvester Company of America was incorporated in Chicago in 1902. The following year, the firm established a warehouse on Dubuque's South Main Street. Located in the B&I Building, a five-story brick block, the company distributed agricultural implements through northeastern Iowa. As reported in a business gazetteer in 1911, "This branch annually supplies agriculturalists, extending over a large strip of territory tributary to Dubuque, with binding twine, harvesting, haying and tillage machinery, motor vehicles, manure spreaders, hay presses, gasoline engines and tractors, wagons, cream separators, threshers and other implements commonly used by the progressive American farmer." That year, International Harvester employed 13 men in its Dubuque facility, with a phalanx of 28 traveling salesmen. About 1925 the company built this two-story brick building two blocks further south on Main, beside a spur of the Illinois Central Railroad. Functioning as an office, showroom and warehouse for implement and vehicle sales, the steel framed structure was organized typically, with a display room on the first floor front a supply room immediately behind and business offices on the second floor. Sometime prior to 1936 a small extension was made to the side of the second story along Main Street and an extensive steel-framed and -sided warehouse was adjoined to the south end of the brick building. Though no longer occupied by International Harvester, the building has retained a high degree of architectural integrity.

Significance: This building is historically significant as the local facility for International Harvester - a nationally important agricultural manufacturing firm. Architecturally, the structure is a representative example of the Twentieth Century Functional commercial and industrial structures built in Dubuque's south end business district.

References:

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Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-25-3-4.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
H.W. Gardner, *Greater Dubuque* (Dubuque: The Times
Journal, 1911), page 52.
H.C. Milversted, "Who's Who in Dubuque. International
Harvester Company," *The Town Printer* April 1947.

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Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado
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